(b) if so, whether Government propose to create Department of Hospital Administration in Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact the said proposal was to be submitted for consideration in the Governing Body's meeting scheduled to be held on March 15, 2000; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not submitting the same and by when the same will be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A proposal for augmenting the existing strength of Hospital Administration Department for starting Master Degree in Hospital Administration (M.H.A.) course at P.G.I.M.E.R., Chandigarh was included in the agenda of the meeting of Governing Body held on 15.3.2000 and the agenda item was withdrawn. The P.G.I.M.E.R., Chandigarh has been directed to bring old agenda item before the Governing Body.

Promotion of Ayurveda

3505. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are promoting Ayurveda in the country;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government in this direction;

(c) whether it is a fact that proper care is not taken for preservation of forests where herbal plants are available in plen and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In order to promote Ayurveda Government has established an independent Department of ISM&H in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Department of ISM&H has already implemented various schemes *e.g.* upgradation of under-graduate/post-graduate institutions, standardization of drugs, encouraging intramural and extra-mural research and dissemination of information and awareness building through information, education and communication (IEC). Delhi have prepared three volumes of Pharmacopoeia of Ayurveda.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests are along implementing various schemes for conservation of Medicinal Plants. A Medicinal Plants Board has also been set up to Coordinate activities relating to Conservation etc. and drawing up schemes for funding conservational programmes.

News-Item, "chalk powder as life saver"

3506. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, Chalk Powder as life saver, which appeared in the Indian Express, dated the 6th February, 2002;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government or proposed to be taken in this regard, particularly against suppliers of spurious drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is aware of the problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. Since this is a clandestine activity indulged in by anti-social persons, steps are taken from time to time by the enforcement authorities of the States to detect and unearth spurious/fake drugs in the interstate commerce. The Drugs Controller General (India) has advised the State drugs controller to take the following measures for curbing the incidence of spurious drugs:—

(i) Constitution and reactivation of State Drug Advisory Committees in which various trade and industry associations as well as consumer associations should find representation.

(ii) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistance.

(iii) To provide training to selected officials of Drug Control Administration in the modalities of intelligence work prosecution etc. in respect of spurious counterfeit drugs.

(iv) To ensure speedy analysis of drug samples by establishing own State level drug testing facilities.

(v) State Drugs Control Authorities should be cautious while approving licenses for drug product to ensure that look-alike products are not encouraged.